

the negotiating table that yielded the Iran Nuclear Agreement that prevents Iran from ever attaining a nuclear weapon. And of course, as the world knows, because of President Obama's leadership, General Motors is alive, and Osama Bin Laden is dead.

President Barack Obama represented our country with grace, integrity, honor, and distinction. He provided consolation, hope, and healing in the face of unspeakable tragedies such as the massacre of innocent children at Sandy Hook, worshippers at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, spectators at the Boston Marathon, and mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona. He expressed and symbolized our joy and pride in the progress made over the last half century—and the distance we still have to travel—when he marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and addressed the multitude from the spot on the steps where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared his dream for America's future.

It is clear beyond doubt that President Obama kept the promise he made to the nation seven years ago on that cold day in January when he said:

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real But know this America: They will be met."

They were more than just met; under his leadership they were overcome with amazing grace. And because of President Barack Obama, when he left office the United States was stronger, more prosperous, and better positioned than ever to win the future. As a presidential candidate in 2008, then Senator Obama promised the America people "change you can believe in."

In office, President Obama made good on that promise, delivering positive change that the American people can see and feel. And that is what makes his one of the most consequential presidencies in American history. I wish President Obama a happy birthday, and thank him for all he did in leading our country to a new era of greatness.

CONGRATULATING BILL HAGER
FOR BEING NAMED 2021 U.P. VET-
ERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize retired Master Sergeant C. William "Bill" Hager as the 2021 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. His continued service on and off the battlefield, his dedication to fellow veterans, and his devotion to our local Michigan communities make him a well-deserving recipient of this distinguished award.

The U.P. Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of past commanders of various service organizations throughout the Upper Peninsula. It recognizes Yooper veterans who go above and beyond in their service to their local communities and fellow veterans.

A native Yooper, Bill was born and raised in Iron River and has stayed a longtime resident of the U.P. During his military career, Bill served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. National Guard, where he was decorated with numerous awards which include but are not

limited to the Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. His service to his fellow veterans has not wavered as he continues to be a life member of the DAV, American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, and AM Vets where he continues to advocate. The impact of his service on his fellow Michiganders cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Bill Hager for his decades of service to fellow Michigan veterans and for being named the 2021 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and devoted individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bill all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING COACH BOB SEPULVEDA

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Coach Bob Sepulveda. Bob is a 1954 graduate of Goodwell High School in Goodwell, Oklahoma, where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He then attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University, earning his B.A. degree in History in 1958, while also lettering in football and track.

Bob's coaching career began in 1960 in Telluride, Colorado, where he served as head basketball and track coach and assistant baseball coach. His 1964 basketball team won the Mountain League District Class A Championship and placed second at the Western Colorado Regional Class A tournament. He also helped coach the 1964 Telluride High School baseball team that won the Class A State Championship.

Taking his coaching career on the road, Bob moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1964, where he coached both track and football for 32 years. In 1969 he was named head track coach and then head football coach in 1971.

During his 27 years as head track coach his teams won more medals for Alamogordo than any coach in its history.

19 District Championships, 5 State Championships, 1 second place finish, 5 third place finishes, 170 Invitational Track meet wins, and 102 first place medals at the State Track Meet showcase Bob's dedication to the team and the athletes.

Under Bob's coaching, several student athletes went on to become NCAA Champions, some establishing records that still stand today. Three of his athletes even went on to the Olympic trials.

If his record alone wasn't a testament to Bob's coaching abilities, he has also received numerous awards during his tenure at Alamogordo High School. He was selected as New Mexico Coach of the Year for boys track in 1982, 1991, and 1996 and received the NHSACA Region 8 Coach of the Year in 1982, 1991, and 1996. He was also named the NFSHSA Section 6 Coach of the Year in 1991 and 1996 and was also awarded, along with his wife Marilyn, the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Level IV Coaching Milestone ring in 1989 and was inducted

into the Alamogordo Tiger Hall of Fame in 1988. He also served on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Track and Field and Cross-Country Association and was the President of the Association from 1991 through 1992.

In a fitting act of recognition for his lifelong dedication and achievements, the Board of Education of the Alamogordo Public School District voted to name the Alamogordo High School Tiger Stadium Track in honor of Bob Sepulveda. A public celebration and official public christening will take place on September 3, 2021.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY PHIL- LIP CAMPAS OF THE KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPART- MENT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Deputy Phillip Campas who passed away in the line of duty on July 25, 2021.

Deputy Campas began serving the Kern County Sheriff's Department in February of 2016. He held a variety of positions within the department including patrol deputy, recruit training officer, and SWAT team member. He provided firearms training and mentoring for all armed staff. In addition, Deputy Campas served the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. His commitment to protecting the Kern County community and the citizens of the United States was unwavering and a true sign of heroism.

Deputy Campas demonstrated great courage and bravery while protecting the residents of Kern County. During his final mission, Deputy Campas lived up to his reputation of fearlessness in his rescue efforts and leaves behind a legacy of incredible dedication and selflessness. The Kern County Sheriff's Department and his entire community mourns this great loss.

Deputy Campas is survived by his wife Christina, his two daughters, and his stepson. He is remembered as a hero of Kern County, a true public servant, and a beloved member of his community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Deputy Sheriff Phillip Campas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 249.